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1052  
MILTON KRESGE

WEST CATASAUSSA, PA.

Since 1911  
S. K. Kresge

The

Gower

Family

Kresge

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*Gower Carl Gower*

Statistics Gathered, Arranged and Written By  
Milton Kresge, Grandson of Anthony Gower  
and Son of Esther Gower Kresge.

812.00 Gower, Carl - 17 Apr 24 - 1979 PO 10606



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GOWER FAMILY

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The history of the Gower family dates back to the 10th century. They originated in England. They are of Anglo-Saxon origin and one of the oldest families in the County of York.

The antiquaries differ somewhat as to who the patriarch of this outstanding and historic family was. Some claim it was Sir Alan Gower, sheriff of York County at the time of the Norman Conquest and Lord of Stittenham in the same county, later possessed by Earl Gower, a prominent member of the Gower family. Others claim that the first fore-father was a William Fitz-Guhyer (note the difference in spelling) of Stittenham and that Alan was likely his son. A century or so later it seems that the name was written Guer. In the 28th year of the reign of Edward I, Sir John Gower became a prominent figure in the conflict with Scotland.

Some have claimed that the celebrated poet and refiner of the English language, labored extensively with Sir John Gower, second son of Sir Thomas Gower. Authors have differed about the poet's extraction, which some conceive to be Welch, and that his sur-name was assumed from that district in the County of Glamorgan, called Gower; while others positively maintain that he was a descendent of the family of Stittenham—but his

coat of arms, as depicted on his monument in St. Mary Overy's Church in Southwork (great part of which he built) have no affinity to those of the Gowers of Stittenham. However, Hollinshed in his Chronicle, p. 541, gives this account of him: "John Gower, descendant of that worthy family of the Gowers of Stittenham in Yorkshire studied not only the common laws of this realm, but also other kinds of literature, and had great knowledge of the same, namely, in poetical inventions, applying his endeavor, with Chaucer, to garnish the English tongue, in bringing it from a rude imperfectness into a more apt elegancy. For whereas, before those days, the learned used to write only in Latin or French, and not in English, our tongue remained very barren, rude and imperfect; but now, by the diligent industry of Chancer and Gower, it was within a while greatly amended, so that it grew not only very rich and plentiful in words, but also so proper and apt to express that which the mind conceived, as any other language. John Gower departed this life through the Battle of Tewkesbury shortly after the decease of his dear and loving friend Chaucer, in the year 1402, being come to great age and blind for a certain time before his death."

Sir John Gower was greatly extolled after his death. Mr. Anstis has observed, in his introduction before the Register of the Garter, that the Swan which now hangs at the end of the collar on the effigies of the said John Gower, in St. Mary Overy's Church, was to imply his services to the Duke of Gloucester, whom he takes all



occasion to extol in his works. Stow, in his annals, gives this account of him:

“John Gower, deceased about the second year of the reign of Henry IV, was a man not much unlike Chaucer, in excellency of wit, learning, or possessions. He built a great part of St. Mary Overy’s Church in Southwork, then newly re-edified. On the north side of the Church he prepared, of stone, a resting place for his bones.”

The resting place, though old-fashioned, was his own design. At the head end there was the likeness of three books which he compiled. (1) *Speculum Medientis*, in French. (2) *Vox Clamantis*, in Latin. (3) *Confessio Amantis*, in English. His arched tomb was beautified with his arms, and the likeness of angels, with poesies in Latin. Besides in the wall were painted three virgins crowned, one Charity, the second Mercy, the third Pity.

Thus Sir John Gower not only made a great contribution to the Gower family but all the English speaking nations of the world are beneficiaries of his intelligence and accomplishments. It is well for us to know of such outstanding ancestors for we can feel that Gower and Chaucer were to the English language what Luther, the great reformer, was to the German language.

As to the genealogy of this great figure in English literature we find that he is the son of Sir Thomas Gower. He was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Goldsborough, Baron of the Exchequer. They had eight chil-

dren—five sons and three daughters. The names of the children are: Edward, John, George, Robert, Walter, Joan, Elizabeth and Anne. We mention these names not because we desire to trace their history but because their names are so common in our day. Very likely we could find all these amongst the Gowers at a family reunion.

A brother Thomas, of this famous Sir John, also played an important part in the life of the British Empire. He took part in a war with France where his valor was recognized. He so signalized himself that he was made Governor of the Castle of Mans. He had a very charitable nature. When an army of English refugees fled to his castle, he communicated with the authorities of the British Empire and later was commissioned by King Henry V together with Henry Earl, of Northumberland, to provide money and provisions for the distressed soldiers.

As we study the life of the Gower family, we find that a great number of them belonged to the British nobility and played an important part in the political life of the Empire.

Another Sir Thomas Gower was knighted at Whitehall, June 24, 1630, succeeded his father's estate and received the title of Baronet. He was a sufferer for his loyalty to King Charles I, having been twice High Sheriff of Yorkshire. He attended to the king, when he was shut out at Hull and he raised a regiment of Dragoons,

of which his brother was Colonel. He left two sons, Edward and William.

Other prominent figures of the Gower family were the following:—

Sir William Leveson Gower, who bailed the Duke of Monmouth in 1683; served in four Parliaments under Charles II; for Newcastle under Line in Straffordshire and was elected for the said borough to the Convention Parliament in 1688, and in all other Parliaments to the time of his death.

His son, John Leveson Gower, was elected to Parliament after the death of his father. He served until he was advanced to the degree and dignity of a Baron of the realm, by the title of Lord Gower, Baron Gower of Stittenham in Yorkshire. He was sworn at the Privy Council to the Queen on April 21, 1702, and at the same time was declared Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

His son, John, later Earl Gower, was a brilliant man. On August 19, 1732, he was given the degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Oxford, in a full convocation. In 1742 he was appointed Lord Privy Seal and then sworn of His Majesty's Privy Council at Kensington. In 1742, he was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the County of Stafford and a year after he was appointed a second time as one of the Lord's Justices. These are but a few of his political appointments that he received during his eventful career.

These are some of the high lights of the history of the Gower family in England. We have, indeed, a great



historical background. Truly, ours is a goodly heritage. The history and the accomplishments of our fore-fathers should challenge us to a greater and better citizenship.

## THE GOWERS IN AMERICA

There are no records to show when the first Gower landed in America. However, Joseph Gower and a number of other Gowers during the Revolutionary War fought with the Hessians in the Battle of Trenton until their capture by General Washington after which they swore allegiance to the American cause and thereafter became General Washington's soldiers.

## INNATE HUNTING TRAITS

The Gowers settled mostly among the hills and valleys of Monroe County where all kinds of game was found in abundance. The atrocities of the Indians kept the settlers in continued terror; justly so, for Monroe County lies within the bounds of the famous "Walking Purchase" of 1737, which aroused the anger of the Indians.

Tradition has it that three boys, Nicholas Gower, Christopher Christman, and another boy, all about 18 years of age, on their way from Indianland, Lehigh Township, to the hunting grounds of Monroe County, while riding through the creek at the village of Little Gap, Carbon County, were taken captive by the Indians.

A few years later Nicholas Gower and Christopher Christman safely came back to their friends whom they

expected to visit on the original journey, but the third boy was never heard from.

## REASONS FOR SETTLEMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA

After their capture they became loyal citizens, enlightened by the fact that William Penn had given his people powers and liberties which had never been enjoyed by any people.

### "PENN'S HOLY EXPERIMENT"

William Penn's message to early settlers no doubt produced a second reason for settlement in Pennsylvania. It read as follows:

"You are now fixed at the mercy of no Governor that comes to make his fortune great. You shall govern by laws of your own making and live a free, and, if you will, a sober and industrious people."

### EARLY IDEALS OF DISTINCTION

Reflections of early life history of the Gowers portray the religious and independent ideas which caused their pilgrimage from England to Holland. It may be said that they showed preference to Quaker belief and opposition to War. On the other hand they also showed a willingness to aid in time of conflict. Definite proof of their being willing to fight for the cause of country lies in the fact that a number of them may be found to

have participated in the War of 1812, the Civil War of 1861, and in the late World War. This also proves that the martial spirit courses through the veins of the Gowers.

When once the Gowers came and lived in America they soon saw and felt the blessings of self government. They became members of the Evangelical Lutheran faith which predominated amongst the early Gower settlers as it does to this day.

While the Gowers can not perhaps as yet boast of doctors or lawyers, there were a number of Gowers prominent in the educational circles.

Anthony Gower, of Kunkletown, was a prominent teacher in the rural schools of Monroe County for forty-eight years.

Abraham Gower, of Hamilton, was a prominent teacher in the rural schools of Monroe County for a number of years.

Aaron Gower, of Kunkletown, was a promising young teacher in the rural schools of Monroe County.

# GOWER FAMILIES

Kunkletown:

George Gower, Pioneer

Children—

Michael Gower

Ludwig Gower

David Gower

Jacob Gower

Peter Gower

Maria Gower

Elizabeth Gower

Anthony Gower

## SECOND

### GENERATION

Abbisinia Gower  
Buskirk  
Robert Gower  
Anna Malinda  
Gower, Vanscoter  
Freeman Gower  
Sallie Ann Gower  
Hoodmacher  
Emma Gower  
Correll  
Ioseph Gower  
John Gower  
George Gower  
Adam Gower  
Ruben Gower  
Johannah Gower  
Annie Gower  
Salina Gower  
Anthony D. Gower  
David Gower

## THIRD

### GENERATION

Milton Buskirk  
Irwin Buskirk  
Emma Jane Busk-  
irk Dodendorf  
Joseph Buskirk  
Emma Vanscoter  
Henkele  
Clara Vanscoter  
Snyder  
Annabel Vanscoter  
Moulthrop  
Joseph Gower  
Michael Gower  
James Gower  
David Gower  
Freeman Gower  
Robert Gower  
Carrie Gower  
Knight  
Winnie Gower  
Rickie

## FOURTH

### GENERATION

Clayton Buskirk  
Ruben Buskirk  
Willard Buskirk  
Florence Buskirk  
Ruben Buskirk  
Verna Buskirk  
Cladus Buskirk  
William Dodendorf  
Harry Dodendorf  
John Dodendorf  
Jennie Dodendorf  
Houser  
Eva Dodendorf  
Emma Buskirk  
Mildred Buskirk  
Eva Buskirk  
Sallie Buskirk  
Florence Buskirk  
Anna Bell Buskirk  
Wilbur Hankle  
Lillian Hankle Potts

## FIFTH

### GENERATION

Jennie Houser  
Robert Houser  
Ruth Potts  
Doris Potts  
Dorothy Henkele  
Evelyn Souders  
John Souders  
Roy Souders  
Fern Souders  
Franklyn Snyder  
Kenneth Snyder  
Dorothy Snyder  
Clara Kromer  
Alfred Kromer  
James Hilfuly  
James  
Dougherty Jr.  
Josephine  
Greenamoyer  
Marian  
Greenamoyer



## SECOND GENERATION

Marian Gower  
Fravel  
Elizabeth Gower  
Rebecca Gower  
Roth  
Hannah Gower  
Borger  
Salina Gower  
Miranda Gower  
Susannah Gower  
Frantz  
Susannah Gower  
Kleintop  
Paul Gower  
Mariah Gower  
Ruben Gower  
Mary Gower  
Thomas Gower  
Richard Gower  
Salina Gower  
Balliet  
Edward Gower  
Sally Ann Gower  
Fehnel  
Alemanda Gower  
Hawk  
James Gower  
Mary Ann Gower  
Frantz  
Aaron Gower  
Lucy Jane Gower  
Elizabeth Gower  
Heffelfinger  
Peter Gower  
Nathan Gower  
Anthony Frable  
Mariah Frable  
Fenner  
Cathrine Frable  
Young

## THIRD GENERATION

Emma Gower  
Squires  
Annie Gower  
Dougherty  
Mary Gower Reap  
Charles  
Hoodmacher  
Emma Hoodmacher  
Shinton  
Lizzie Hoodmacher  
Stolz  
Robert Hoodmacher  
Wilbur Hoodmacher  
Silas Correll  
Sula Correll  
Kersch  
Harvey Correll  
Elmira J. Gower  
Kannapel  
Robert Gower  
Fred Gower  
Mary Gower  
Amanda Gower  
Johannah's  
Children  
Bessie  
Annie  
Hannah  
Rebecca  
Jake 1st  
Jake 2nd  
Joe  
Timothy  
Annie's Children  
Timothy  
Henry  
Frank  
Daniel  
Lowvene Gower  
Stewart Gower

## FOURTH GENERATION

Harold Henkele  
Allen Hankele  
Clayton Hankele  
Alfred Snyder  
Carrie Snyder  
Souders  
Floyd Snyder  
Gordon Snyder  
William Snyder  
Hattie Snyder  
Kromer  
Edith Snyder  
Hilfuly  
Paul Rickie  
Anna Dougherty  
Curry  
Margaret  
Dougherty  
Robert Dougherty  
Elanore Dougherty  
Millie Dougherty  
Anna Reap  
Helen Reap  
Madaline Reap  
Jack Reap  
Allen R. Kannapel  
Vestilla Gower  
Kresge  
Edwin Gower  
Hiram Gower  
Alfred Gower  
Mary Gower Borger  
Elva Gower  
Quinton Gower  
Robert Gower  
Anna Gower  
Lizzie Gower  
Carrie Gower  
Bulah Borger

## FIFTH GENERATION

Gerald  
Greenamoyer  
Foster Lee  
Virginia Lee  
June Lee  
David Lee  
Jean Leida  
Charles Leida  
Lorane Andrews  
George Gower Jr.  
Jean Mae Hausch  
Paul Barnes  
Mildred Barnes  
Helen Barnes  
Ralph Tucker Jr.  
Shirley Tucker  
Jesse Tucker  
Marian Danner  
Charles M. Danner  
Robert Kresge  
Willard Kresge  
Luther Kresge  
Earl Kresge  
Kenneth Kresge  
Josephine Kresge  
Winnefred Kresge  
Jannette Kresge  
Floyd Kresge Jr.  
Donald Kresge  
Evelyn Kresge  
Pauline Kresge  
Violet Kresge  
Wilbur Kresge  
Althea Kresge  
Carl Borger

**SECOND  
GENERATION**

Elizabeth Frable  
Andrews  
Ephram Frable  
Sussannah Gower  
Anglemyer  
Daniel Gower  
Sarah Gower  
Franklin Gower  
Cathrine Gower  
Lobach  
Esther Gower  
Kresge  
Anthony Gower  
Christiana Gower  
Amandus Gower  
Frantz  
Elizabeth Gower  
Bonser

**THIRD  
GENERATION**

Kathrine Gower  
Richard Gower  
Jane Gower Hawk  
Lizzie Gower  
Falstich  
Ella Gower Roth  
Amanda Roth  
Christman  
Jane Roth  
Christman  
Cornelius Borger  
Edward Borger  
Solomon Borger  
Milton Borger  
Emma Jane Borger  
Mrs. Harry Green  
Joseph Frantz  
David Frantz  
Freeman Frantz  
Levy Frantz  
Anna Frantz  
Mariah Frantz  
Menda Frantz  
Etta Frantz  
Emma Frantz  
Amandus Gower  
Lewis Gower  
Lydia Gower Borger  
Freeman Gower  
Alice Gower  
Andrews  
Stephen Gower  
Emma Gower Getz  
Milton Gower  
Lavine Gower  
Cora Gower Meckes  
Maryetta Gower  
Snyder  
Eugene Gower  
Monroe Balliet

**FOURTH  
GENERATION**

Sallie Borger  
Barlieb  
Tilghman Borger  
Clara Gower  
Hattie Gower  
Herbert Gower  
Eva Gower  
Mary Gower  
William Gower  
Edna Gower  
Floyd Gower  
Ida Gower  
Wesley Gower  
Bulah Gower  
Helen Gower  
Charles Gower  
Alice Gower  
Raymond Gower  
Charles Gower  
Thomas Gower  
Bulah Gower  
Mabel Gower  
Ada Balliet  
Verna Balliet  
Arlington Balliet  
Roy Balliet  
Florence Balliet  
Gladys Balliet  
Lottie Frantz  
Ellas Frantz  
Helen Frantz  
Irene Gower  
Iva Gower Borger  
Carl Gower  
Mabel Borger  
Edith Borger  
Alvin Borger  
Harold Borger  
Walter Borger  
Ruth Borger

**FIFTH  
GENERATION**

SECOND  
GENERATION

THIRD  
GENERATION

FOURTH  
GENERATION

FIFTH  
GENERATION

Oscar Balliet	Floyd Borger
Emma Balliet	Clark Borger
Frantz	Wesley Christman
Alice Gower	Albert Gower
William Gower	Esther Gower
Charles Gower	George Gower
Vestilla Gower	Earl Gower
Borger	Luther Gower
Agnes Gower	Eva Gower
Christman	Dorothy Gower
John Gower	Alice Gower
Alvin Gower	Verna Gower
Laura Gower Smith	Florence Gower
Edwin Fehnel	Arlene Smith
Mary Fehnel Frantz	Albert Hawk
Vistilla Fehnel	Ezra Hawk
Marth Meixsell	Harold Fravel
Smale	Beatrice Fravel
Henry Meixsell	Floyd Fravel
Mary Meixsell	Raymond Fravel
Fravel	Mae Fravel
Lizzy Meixsell	Lillian Borger
Snyder	Floyd Anglemeyer
Minnie Hawk	Eva Lessig
Altemose	Clifford Lessig
George Hawk	Bernida Lessig
Ella Hawk	Verna Lessig
Mary Hawk	Sadie Andrews
Buskirk	Greenamoyer
Cora Frantz Gower	Floyd Andrews
Ella Frantz Fravel	Lulu Andrews Lee
Gertrude Frantz	Eva Andrews
Borger	Lillie Andrews
Vistilla Gower	Leida
Edwin Gower	Arlington Andrews
Hiram Gower	Charles Gower
Albert Gower	Graffin Gower
Mary Gower	Mae Gower Hausch
Elva Gower	Leslie Gower
	Edna Mae Gower



SECOND  
GENERATION

THIRD  
GENERATION

FOURTH  
GENERATION

FIFTH  
GENERATION

Laura Heffelfinger Fravel	Mary Tucker Barnes
Carrie Heffelfinger Morey	Ralph Tucker
Mary Fravel Kresge	Helen Tucker
William Fravel	Elmer Tucker
Anetta Fravel	Elsie Tucker
Kresge	Harry Tucker
David Fravel	Ida Remaley
Jacob Fravel	Pearl Gower
Emilinda Fenner Green	Ambrose Gower
Elmira Fenner Meixsell	Glenmore Gower
Elmira Frantz	Gladys Gower
Emma Jane Christman	Irene Gower
David Andrews	Hazel Gower
William Andrews	Naomi Gower
Anna Anglemyer Borger	Elmer Gower
Rose Anglemyer Lessig	Henry Gower
Mary Ann Gower Andrews	Eva Gower
Tilghman Gower	Harold Gower
Eugene Gower	Chester Gower
William Gower	Mazie Gower
Lillian Gower Herbert	Edgar Gower
Ella Gower Tucker	Kenneth Gower
Emma Gower Remaley	Norman Gower
Daniel Gower	Harvey Gower
Milton Gower	Ruth Gower
Edwin Gower	Martha Gower
Adam Gower	Eva C. Fravel
Joseph Gower	Harvey Lobach
Harry Gower	Miriam Lobach
Henry Gower	Sensenbach
	Robert Lobach
	Beatrice Worner
	Sternar
	Viola Worner
	Merkle
	Lawrence Lobach
	Elanore Lobach
	Helen Kresge
	Danner

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SECOND  
GENERATION

THIRD  
GENERATION

FOURTH  
GENERATION

FIFTH  
GENERATION

Amandus Gower	Luther L. Kresge
Milton Gower	Amelia Kresge
Paul Wulson Gower	George
Elmira Lobach	Bert Kresge
Fravel	Floyd Kresge
Charles Lobach	Raymond Kresge
Francis Lobach	Alvin Kresge
Nathan Lobach	William Kresge
Emma Lobach	William Rhodes
Heimbach	Lee Rhodes
Amelia Lobach	Russel Borger
Anna Lobach	Mabel Frantz
Worner	Smith
Lillian Lobach	Mary Bonser
Kemper	Leroy Bonser
Luther Lobach	Harold Bonser
Clara Lobach	Dorothy Bonser
Ida Lobach	Florence Bonser
Milton Kresge	
Arvin Kresge	
Kathrine Kresge	
Emma Kresge	
Rhodes	
Amelia C. Frantz	
Borger	
Millard F. Frantz	
Arthur A. Frantz	
Lillie Bonser Frantz	
Robert Bonser	

Hamilton:

John Gower, Pioneer

Children—

Daniel Gower

George Gower

Lyman Gower

Mary Gower

Elizabeth Gower

Katie Ann Gower

Samuel Gower

John Gower

Abe Gower

Maria Gower Bossard

Owen Gower

Hester Gower Faulstick

EMIGRATED FROM ENGLAND TO HOLLAND AND  
FROM HOLLAND TO AMERICA

SECOND GENERATION	THIRD GENERATION	FOURTH GENERATION	FIFTH GENERATION
Ed. Shaffer	John Shaffer	Wilma Steinmetz	
David Shaffer	Richard Shaffer	Vernon LaBar	
Amanda Shaffer	Henry Shaffer	Catherine Gower	
Oyer	Jacob Shaffer	William Gower	
Elizabeth Shaffer	Robert Shaffer	Kenneth Gower	
Brewer	Joseph Shaffer	Melba Gower	
Etna Shaffer	Charles Raph	Donald Gower	
Thomas	Pearl Raph	David Gower	
Abraham Shaffer	Jennie LaBar	Doris Gower	
John Shaffer	James Brewer	Harry Gower Jr.	
Hattie Shaffer	Burton Brewer	Elizabeth Gower	
Steinmetz	Clarence Brewer	Barbara Gower	
Edward Gower	Lester Brewer	Janet Jordon	
Eli Gower		Grace Jordon	
Elton Gower	Mary Brewer Marsh	Charles Jordon	

**SECOND  
GENERATION**

Jacob Gower  
Linford Gower  
Lyman Gower  
Sadie Gower  
    Brutzman  
Abe Gower  
Ella Gower Marsh  
David Gower  
Anna Gower  
    Williams  
John Gower  
Hester Gower  
    Werkheiser  
Dan Gower  
Francis Gower  
Arthur Gower  
Sarah Gower  
    Balliet  
Emma Gower  
    Henthorne  
Minnie Gower  
    Rupert

**THIRD  
GENERATION**

Minnie Brewer  
    Stackhouse  
Nellie Brewer  
    Meixell  
Ellen Brewer  
    Kocher  
LeRoy Gower  
Lena Gower  
    Bottomley  
Harold Gower  
Otto Gower  
William Gower  
Clarence Gower  
Louise Gower  
Edna Gower  
Anna Gower Selb  
Minnie Gower  
    LaBar  
Harry Gower  
Ruth Gower Palmer  
Marian Gower  
    Barnes  
Janet Gower  
    Jordon  
Louise Gower  
James Gower  
John Gower  
Elmyra Gower  
Ira Gower  
Elmer Gower  
Myrtle Gower  
    Roseberry  
Stella Brutzman  
Ethel Brutzman  
John Gower  
Helen Gower  
    Kresge  
Ida Gower Sandt  
Arthur Marsh  
Leslie Marsh

**FOURTH  
GENERATION**

Irene Gower  
Robert Gower  
Edwin Herring Jr.  
Velma Werkheiser  
Glays Werkheiser  
Vernon Werkheiser  
Mrs. Matt Walsh  
Lester Steinmetz

**FIFTH  
GENERATION**

SECOND  
GENERATION

THIRD  
GENERATION

FOURTH  
GENERATION

FIFTH  
GENERATION

Phoebe Marsh  
    Jones  
Anna Marsh  
    Walwork  
Mildred Marsh  
Mrs. Herbert Cann  
Harry Gower  
William Gower  
Herbert Werkheiser  
Florence Gower  
    Werner  
Francis Gower Jr.  
Ida Gower  
    Steinmetz

COMPILED AND ARRANGED BY  
MILLARD F. FRANTZ

Grandson of Anthony Gower and son of Christiana Gower Frantz  
and

RALPH TUCKER

Great grandson of Anthony Gower and son of Ella Gower Tucker

The preparation of the History of the Gower Family is no longer "A One Man Job." It is in our hands now. The future will recognize the author's efforts as a most worthy contribution.

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East Stroudsburg, Pa.













